



# THE LINK

## GAME TIME



### A SEASON OF INFLUENCE

by Ken Hagler

It was the early 1930's and it was Christmas Eve. As late Christmas shoppers hurried along the street, a crippled newsboy stood on crutches offering papers to the passersby. He looked happy, and his crutches were decorated with evergreens.

One man greeted him with a cheerful smile, "My boy, you surely have the Christmas spirit." The boy replied, "What's the use of looking and acting sad"? Sure, I am poor and lame, but that's no reason for looking glum. I won't get presents like other boys at Christmas, but I can have fun, too. So I decorated my crutches just to make them seem special for Christmas."

I Remember distinctly the Christmas that I did not get "The Six Million Dollar Man." It was the hot toy! The toy we all just HAD TO HAVE!!! I remember my parents" look of disappointment in me and I remember I did not care. Today, I do not even have that action figure. It all seems so long ago and thankfully I have grown up a lot. My parents had a lot to do with that and so did all those around me.

Today, I am on the receiving end of those same cries of things that just have to be had. Hopefully that makes you feel better, knowing that pastor's kids are no different than other kids-- after all they are kids! It is what we do as a community that shapes the attitudes and ideals that our children develop. Who is it that surrounds our kids? Not just their peers but who are the families? Above all, what is the message?

When I look at the stories of Jesus' life growing up, there is not much history given to us. The physician Luke gives us the best glimpse of Jesus' formative years. In the first two chapters of that history, Jesus is surrounded by everyday people like shepherds. He lives in the company of family and even hangs out with the most educated men of his day.

Such were the influences that surrounded Jesus. Mary and Joseph did not appear to take for granted those who might have influenced God' Son.

In a time such as we live in today, we need to hear again Jesus' words, words to strengthen faith and bring hope, words of influence reminding us things are nothing compared to a connection to God, "Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. "But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you?

**Ken Hagler**

"Do No Harm, Do Good, and Stay in Love with God."



**Ken Hagler, Pastor  
Anchor Park UMC**

visit our website: [www.anchorpark.org](http://www.anchorpark.org)

**LIVE**

## We Worship on Sundays at 11:00am

<https://www.facebook.com/anchorparkumc>

<https://tinyurl.com/svcxjaq>

Our Sunday sermon and prayers:

Audio only Call (907) 302-2795  
no codes required



Services are uploaded the following week to our YouTube channel.

### It's happening!

**Church Family**  
The first major project I, Loretta, as your new Church Secretary will be tackling and updating the APUMC family pictures on the wall. If your picture is still on the wall in the hallway, please let us know if you would like to have it updated this go-around. If your picture was previously on the wall and is no LONGER there - you're covered. The photo taken by Beckels Photography will be used. If you would like to provide a different picture - please do so at your earliest convenience. If you are new to the family and/or have never been on the wall - please let us add you to the family. Thank you!

### Birthdays

Gregory Todd	03
Patti Butcher	05
Loleini Saafi	08
Susan Williams	10
Lianna Joe	11
Vasco Vea Jr	13
Hailey Barth	19
Bob Shaffer	21
Lupe Saafi	23
Roen Shawback	24
Alex Miller	29
Jon Disburg	30

### Anniversaries

Hayden, Brian & Jade	02
Bedwell, Jetty & Jane	15
Russ, Joel & Dina	30

**Our Church Family grows and changes like the**



### Our Prayer Ministry

**We Pray Together - Tuesday at 5pm**



Zoom Link hosted  
by Judy Pendleton:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9072508464?  
pwd=TmdEM1dVYk9QQi81WEpZbUJ1SU1rUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9072508464?pwd=TmdEM1dVYk9QQi81WEpZbUJ1SU1rUT09)



We have a most beautiful **prayer room** at church. Our Prayer Room at church is open to you any time the church office is open (9am to 2pm M-Th). If you would like another to pray with you, please call Judy Pendleton (907) 250-8464 to set up a meeting with a prayer buddy.



### Take a Walk

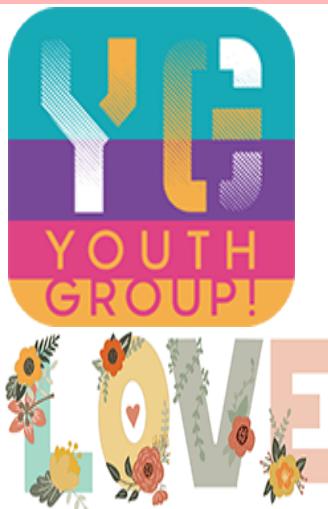
#### Prayer Labyrinth

Find calm and peace as you walk the Prayer Labyrinth in the Sanctuary. **Take your time.** Allow each step to be a breath, to be a prayer. Let the Spirit move you as you lift your cares and petitions to God. Enjoy the journey; travel it often. Open whenever the Prayer Room is open and by special arrangement.



**Judy Pendleton is our Prayer Leader. Please contact Judy @ 907-337-5023 for more information regarding this ministry.**

EPIC Youth...Our EPIC Youth...Our EPIC Youth...Our EPIC Youth...Our EPIC Youth...O



## EPIC ANCHOR PARK UMC YOUTH FAMILY NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Come & join us for  
family night! There will  
be food &  
entertainment!



Where: First United  
Methodist Church  
725 W. 9th Ave  
Anchorage, AK 99501

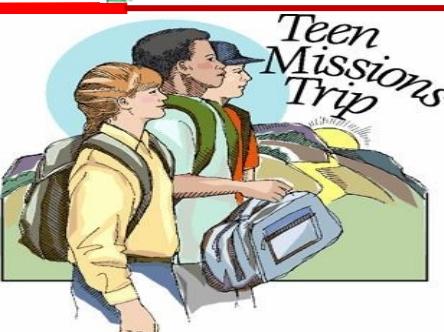


EPIC YOUTH  
12/17/2022 EPIC Youth White  
Elephant Christmas Party! Bring a  
friend if you'd like!

Thank you everyone!!! Flyers and  
information will be out gradually!  
Have a blessed month!



We're fund raising so



Food, fun, laughter,  
engagement, friendship,  
family, community, and  
enjoyment!



When: January 7th, 2023  
Saturday  
Time: 6pm-10pm

Bring a friend if you'd like!  
This fundraiser is to  
support our APUMC EPIC  
Youth to serve a mission in  
Florida & attend Youth  
conference



## **Apportionments – what is it. Where does the money go?**

Apportionments is a word United Methodists use to describe the “portion” of the conference or denomination budget that the local church pays. The formula for the portion assigned to each church is

based on a number of factors including the local church’s budget.

For 2022 the “portion” that Anchor Park was responsible for was \$28,329.

Our Apportionment supports:

- Connectional Clergy-District Superintendent, Bishop, Directors of Connectional Ministry, and local congregations needing assistance to pay for clergy (\$9819)
- Connectional Admin-Administrative Assistants to District Superintendent, Administrative Assistant to Bishop (\$9117)
- World Service (\$9393)

Some of the World Service missions are:

- Missionaries- across US and around the world
- Global Health- initiatives concentrate on strengthening health systems, eradicating preventable diseases, such as malaria, HIV and AIDS and COVID-19, providing safe drinking water, and supporting the most vulnerable populations, including mothers, newborns and children.
- Black College Fund
- Africa University
- Migration and Refugees-help refugees obtain legal status in the US
- Environmental Sustainability- Net-Zero Emissions by 2050 and Global Ministries Earth Keepers
- Agriculture initiatives in Africa

At the end of November Anchor Park is \$4500.00 from paying its “portion” toward the conference and global ministries of the church. Fifty percent of a special Thanksgiving offering will go toward paying our

share. Fifty percent of the Christmas offering will go toward apportionments.

In 2023 I will be highlighting some of the funds that our apportionments support.

**Sandra Woods, Finance Committee Chair**

## **Anchor Park Endowment Established**

Establishing and endowment for Anchor Park UMC has been a dream of members for several years. Through faith and perseverance an endowment was established in October with Faith Foundation Northwest, formerly the United Methodist Foundation.

An endowment is a gift of money or stock that is invested in stocks and bonds in the US and around the world. The interest is then available for either reinvestment or use by the church as directed by the Church Council. The Endowment Committee at Anchor Park has recommended that the interest be re-invested to allow the amount invested to grow. The goal is to have income that sustains the ministries of Anchor Park UMC.

Faith Foundation Northwest invests in companies express our faith and work for good. For more information about Faith Foundation Northwest visit their website <https://www.faith.foundation/investments>

Members can contribute to the endowment in a number of ways:

- Write a check to Anchor Park and write Endowment in the memo line
- Send the check to Faith Foundation Northwest and write Anchor Park Endowment Acct 8011A. Deposit forms will be available in the church office.
- For a gift of stock, contact Faith Foundation Northwest at 800-488-4179 or [staff@faith.foundation](mailto:staff@faith.foundation)
- Leave a gift of money or stock in your will to Anchor Park Endowment

Contact Pastor Ken, Sandra Woods or Susan Williams with questions about the endowment or a list of current Endowment Committee members.

**Sandra Woods, Finance Committee Chair**

### **F.I.S.H.**

Friends In Serving Humanity is a mission effort in Anchorage supported by numerous churches, organizations and individuals.

Their efforts go towards providing food supplies to individuals and families that find themselves needing a short-term, temporary source of groceries. The need can arise out of many reasons, such as being laid off work, illness interfering with jobs, or family crises.

Anchor Park UMC has for many years been a provider of canned tuna for the pantry at F.I.S.H. We are currently providing an average of 100 cans per month, through donations of designated cash or cans of tuna brought to church and left in the "FISH basket" in the Robinson Room. That is approximately one-third to one-fourth of the current need at the pantry. It would be a worthy goal to increase that number, especially as increasing costs of living are impacting our community this year. If donating to this mission calls to you, your gifts would be welcomed by F.I.S.H. and the many



### Anchor Park United Women in Faith

#### Adopt a Family

Anchor Park's United Women in Faith plans to sponsor our outreach for families in our neighborhood schools- Russian Jack and Airport Heights this year. The ASD staff will work with United Women in Faith to select families in need.

Families will share a Holiday wish list. The wish list sign-up for each family will be in the West Wing toward the first week of December. Cash

donations can be given to this effort: mark Memo line on checks United Women in Faith Family adoption and United Women in Faith will purchase gifts. Pray that Christ's light through Anchor Park will bring joy to these families.

Congregation members should bring presents back to church by December 18th. UWIF will have a wrapping party December 19 starting at 6pm. If you are willing to be a super shopper contact Jo Anne Hayden at 907-903-5025 to volunteer.

### Lights of Love at Christmas Cards



The holiday season is special because we strive to connect with family and friends. "Lights of Love at Christmas" is a unique way to do that while supporting United Women in Faith Mission Projects for women, children and youth.

Through Lights of Love at Christmas, you will have the opportunity to send loved ones (family and friends) a special greeting. For each \$5 donation you make, Anchor Park United Women in Faith will send your designated recipient a special greeting and small gift to remind them you are thinking of them. What a wonderful way to recognize those who have been an inspiration, a friend, family member or honor the memory of someone special who has passed on.

Between November 27th and December 11th you'll be able to place orders in West wing, online at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdpDvAXO--mrP\\_jCprpg3z8uEellg1KtRBosTdE8ssZJtPT3Q/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdpDvAXO--mrP_jCprpg3z8uEellg1KtRBosTdE8ssZJtPT3Q/viewform) or by contacting Jo Anne Hayden at [hayden@alaskan.net](mailto:hayden@alaskan.net) or 903-5025. UWIF plan that greetings will be in the mail by December 15th, so your recipients will receive delivery by Christmas. Payments should be made out to Anchor Park United Methodist Women and can be sent to Anchor Park UMW, c/o Susan Williams at 1411 Atkinson Drive, Anchorage, AK 99504 or dropped off at the church office.

In this season of darkness, let's all join together to bring Light to everyone.

Anchor Park's  
December 3rd,  
10:45am to  
A special three  
Italian  
variety of Rolls,



### Annual Holiday Auction

2022

2:15pm

course meal cost \$20

Wedding Soup, Lasagna, Salad,  
Desserts

Anchor Park's Annual Holiday Auction organized by the United Women In Faith is scheduled for Saturday, December 3rd! Contact Susan [smwilliams@gci.net](mailto:smwilliams@gci.net) or Jo Anne hayden@alaskan.net to make a reservation. Share the fun by inviting friends. It will be awesome to be together in person again.

We are still welcoming donations of home crafted or baked items. Bring any donation to the church ASAP mark for Holiday Auction. This is a great way to have fun and support mission projects focused on women, children, and youth in Alaska, the United States, as well as the world. We still need volunteers to help with the auction. Tasks include making lasagna for Thursday afternoon, setting up Wesley Hall and cooking on Friday December 2nd, Saturday December 3rd tasks include cooking, set up, clean up, check-out table, dishes and the famous other duties that arise. Contact Jo Anne if you can help us out.

**United Women in Faith  
Holiday Brunch /Annual Cookie exchange**

**Sunday December 11th following Church  
Menu: Variety of Quiches, Cinnamon Rolls, bacon, sausage, Fruit Cup and Dessert**

All women and girls are welcome. If you want to participate in the Holiday Cookie exchange, bring cookies to share. The cookie exchange is an easy way to simplify the holiday baking and go home with diverse variety.



**Holiday Auction money distribution**

After the success of our Holiday Auction, we need to decide which nonprofits, we will support. The money will be donated to organizations which support women and children in our community, around the state, nation and internationally.

**Past recipients include:**

- Ak. Community Foundation- Suicide prevention
- Anchor Park Youth group
- Anchorage Youth Court
- Armed Services YMCA
- AWAIC-Abused Women's Aid in Crisis
- Beans Café- Children's Lunchbox • Birchwood Camp
- Clare House Catholic Social Services
- Covenant House
- Cross Roads ASD Foundation
- Days for Girls
- Hope Center
- Identity • Magic Yarn Project
- Partners Re-entry Center
- Pillow Patrol UAF Cooperative Extension Service
- Priceless
- Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services Catholic Social Services
- Royal Family KIDS Anchorage
- Salvation Army
- The Alaska Disaster Recovery Fund
- Tuluksak Native Community
- UMCOR Global Refugee/Migrant Relief- European Crisis
- UMCOR National Justice for Our Neighbors
- UMCOR Disaster Response US
- UMCOR International Disaster Response
- UMCOR undesignated funds
- UMW International Mission Vocational Training Indigenous Women Bolivia
- UMW National Institution Nome Community Center
- UMW National Institution- Ak Child and Family
- United Methodist Women Legacy Fund



## United Women in Faith

Our hope is that we will leave Mission U with a bigger and broader vision of the community. Christ is calling us to be in times of loss, grief, and massive disruption. What would be possible if we tend to the needs of our communities in small yet radical ways, as Jesus did in Luke 13?

**The curricula that will be used is: Who Can We Be Together? A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13 is \$10**

*Who Can We Be Together? A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13*, the 2022 adult curriculum by Candace Simpson brings participants deeper into Jesus' teachings in this chapter of Luke to explore what it means to be in community. As the author notes, "For followers of Christ 2,000 years later, it's important for us to sit with the range of emotions we have in response to these words. It's not easy to build and sustain communities, especially when there are forces that drain us, exhaust us, and even push us to act uncharacteristically. And yet, we are called to act on the most ethical principles of our faith so we can witness the kingdom of God on earth."

Books may be purchased at the United Women in Faith [e-store](#).

There will be four sessions, each covering two chapters of the study book. Please read relevant chapters prior to class meeting time. Zoom links will be sent to registered participants.

Sign up at: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfwhDtdJKq9DKB2wZiXHxDMLm5pDq\\_U7hpAvgDLd7CqmES9w/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfwhDtdJKq9DKB2wZiXHxDMLm5pDq_U7hpAvgDLd7CqmES9w/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0)

Mission Dean is Lori Staats. If you have questions, contact Lori at 907 351-4498 cell or via email [staatslori@gmail.com](mailto:staatslori@gmail.com).



### Anchor Park United Women in Faith 2022-2023 Calendar of Events

January 8              Mission U program –

What is God calling us to be?

February 12            Incarceration and the Death Penalty

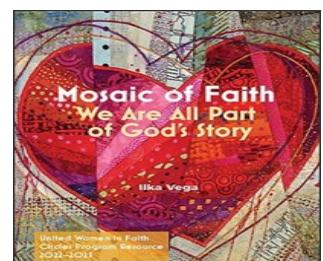
February 24            Fleece Blanket Tying event

March 12, 19, 26       Book Study

April 16                Activity from 2023 Program Book

May 14                 BBQ celebration

\* Activity sponsored by Alaska United Women  
in Faith



## MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR OUTREACH MISSION TEAM!



It is so true that giving is receiving! And I have also found it true that the more you give of yourself, the more joy it gives you. You cannot give more than you get back! Giving is part of our souls, and that is something to be thankful for!

As many of you already know, the Downtown Hope Center (DHC) will be part of our Special Christmas Offering. This organization serves the homeless in a number of ways. In doing their work, they help to fight homelessness itself. First, they offer.... love and respect, things that the homeless do not find much of in their daily lives. They offer the basic needs that everyone must have to survive, such as food and clothing, to the homeless men and women. They also provide a shelter for 50 women, up from 30 when they first started functioning as a shelter in 2015. They have Sunday services and a pastor on staff through the week. Those that are willing, are guided towards Christ. And who knows what seeds are planted where and when? The Downtown Hope Center also has vocational programs that teach the Culinary arts of cooking and baking. The training their homeless clients receive is supplemented with teaching life skills such as how to keep a checkbook, how to budget, how to write a resume and look for a job (and helps them through the resume and job seeking processes). This is not a complete explanation of all the services that are offered and provided, but it is (only) a starter! One of the best things they share is HOPE! They are able to help some of these people find hope; some of them learn about and turn to Christ, some begin to believe in themselves, then they have hope for their future. Hope is a necessity of life and an amazing gift.

We will have a special offering at the Christmas Eve service, which will be divided equally between the Downtown Hope Center and apportionments. When the Downtown Hope Center executive director was asked what they needed, she replied, "single beds for the 50 women that stay in the shelter". That is where the money will go that you donate to the Downtown Hope Center at Christmas.

The DHC began their women's shelter in December 2015 as a cold weather shelter for 30 women. It since has developed into a safe haven and home for 50 homeless women in Anchorage. The DHC's Women's Shelter now safely shelters these women every night, year-round. In 2015 they used pads on the floor as beds for the ladies. They then moved to cots. They are now trying to buy simple, single beds for each lady client that stays in the shelter. What a gift that would be! Can you imagine what that would mean to you if you happened to be one of those women?

As always at this time of the year, they are in need of warm clothing of all kinds, from long johns to sweatshirts and sweatpants to coats and snow pants, boots, hats, gloves, scarves, as well as socks and underwear. Hygiene products of all kinds are also welcomed. All these items are needed by both men and women of all sizes. They do not have to be new, but clean and in good shape is appreciated. So, as you get new coats and clothes, if you have things you might not use again, please put them in the bins in the coffee room and they will be delivered to the DHC. If you prefer, Costco has a goo supply of socks, snowpants and jackets for men and women right now. When donating to the Special Christmas offering, please be sure to designate your that giving is intended for the Special Offering.

Peace to all, Pam

# OUTREACH CORNER



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# OUTREACH CORNER



**P**astor Ken has a variety of postings throughout the week on Facebook and Instagram designed to keep you connected with Anchor Park.

**W**eekly: 60 Second Sermons and Breathe Prayers to encourage your spiritual growth.

**On Wednesdays: Join Pastor Ken @ 12noon**

**Upper Room Wednesdays** **LIVE** on **ZOOM** each week, and recorded and replayed on the Anchor Park UMC YouTube channel. Use the link or numbers: <https://gaternw.zoom.us/j/98682022441>

**Meeting ID: 986 8202 2441** One tap mobile +16699006833,,98682022441# US (San Jose) +12532158782,,98682022441# US (Tacoma)

**We Welcome:**

*all races, class or lifestyle to experience God's love through all ministries of our church.*

**We Love:**

*God and neighbors knowing that love will encourage our diversity and span our differences.*

**We Serve:**

*our community and world through serving the poor, homeless, orphaned, addicted and imprisoned.*



2300 Oak Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

**Worship with Us!!** Visit [www.anchorpark.org](http://www.anchorpark.org) for available in person, on-line, and smart-phone options.

Office Phone: 907-277-0152 Email: [office@anchorpark.org](mailto:office@anchorpark.org) Office Hours: 9-2 Mon-Thur.